

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5919

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SOCI, BG, IN

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMODITY PRICE DATA

1. SUMMARY: MISSION DACCA REQUESTS INFORMATION, IF AVAILABLE, FROM CONULATE CALCUTTA ON FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITY PRICES IN INDIA/BANGLADESH BORDER REGIONS AS WELL AS EXCHANGE RATE DATA. END SUMMARY.

2. REGULAR AND DETAILED MONITORING OF PRICES AND SUPPLIES OF FOODGRAINS AND OTHER COMMODITIES IN BANGLADESH IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO MISSION'S ANALYSIS AND PLANNING FOR FOOD AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH. IN RECENT YEARS, SMUGGLING OF FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITIES FROM BANGLADESH TO INDIA IN RESPONSE TO HIGHER INDIAN PRICES HAS BEEN A FACTOR INFLUENCING PRICES HERE.

3. RECENT LOCAL REPORTS OF INCREASED SMUGGLING OF FOODGRAINS, JUTE AND OTHER COMMODITIES INTO INDIA MAY BE FACTOR IN REPORTED CURRENT SHORTAGES AND PRICE RISES IN SOME AREAS OF BANGLADESH. WE HAVE VIRTUALLY NO ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THIS POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM.

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4. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE RECEIVING CURRENT DATA AVAILABLE TO CONSULATE ON CURRENT FOOD AND OTHER COMMODITY PRICES AND SUPPLIES IN WEST BENGAL, BIHAR, ASSAM AND TRIPURA. GOVERNMENT OR COMMERCIALY PUBLISHED DATA WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. IF THERE ARE PERIODICALS WHICH REGULARLY CARRY SUCH DATA WE MIGHT

WISH TO SUBSCRIBE. WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN PRICES OF RICE, WHEAT AND EDIBLE OILS (SOYBEAN AND MUSTARD) SINCE THESE COMMODITIES RELATE TO THE PL-480 PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN PRICE DATA ON FERTILIZERS (UREA, TSP AND MP), RAW JUTE, PESTICIDES, INSECTICIDES AND SUGAR.

5. WE ALSO NEED DATA ON TAKA/RUPEE EXCHANGE RATE AND RUPEE/DOLLAR OR RUPEE/POUND RATE TO ASSESS SMUGGLING INCENTIVE BASED ON POSSIBLE EXCHANGE RATE MALADJUSTMENT. FINALLY, WE WILL NEED TO KNOW UNITS OF MEASURE FOR ABOVE-MENTIONED COMMODITIES.

6. EMBASSY NEW DELHI MAY HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION REQUESTED ABOVE WHICH IS NOT AVAILABLE TO CONSULATE CALCUTTA. IF SO, WE WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE ALSO.

7. IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE SUCH DATA ON A REGULAR BASIS BY POUCH, THIS WOULD BE MOST USEFUL. MANY THANKS.
BERGESEN

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